Year	Average quantity of stocks held in open (in lakh tonnes)
1998-1999	26.36
1999-2000	30.86
2000-2001	51.50

(c) The following quantities were transferred from sound to damaged stock account unfit for human consumption during the last three years:—

Year	Quantities (in lakh tonnes) (Provisional)
1998-1999	1.48
1999-2000	2.14
2000-2001	0.70

(d) Losses incurred on account of transfer of sound foodgrains stocks to damaged stock account could be ascertained only after the accounts are finalized and audited.

Storage capacity for crains

487. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether because of good monsoon and resultant bumper crops, Government propose to build additional storage capacity for grains and has floated global tenders for grain silos in 20 different locations in the country;

(b) if so, what are the proposed locations; and

(c) whether the new silos will have a grading system for different varieties of grains to ensure better and quick quality assessment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) With a view to minimise storage and transit losses and to introduce modern technology in bulk grain handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains, the Government proposes to create bulk grain handling, storage and transportation facilities at 10 locations in producing and consuming areas through private sector participation. However, International Competitive Bids (ICB) for these silos have not been invited till date. In the first step, Expression

of interest would be invited by RITES on behalf of the FCI after which ICB from shortlisted parties shall be invited.

(b) The FCI, has identified following ten locations with a total capacity of 21 lakh tonnes for the creation of bulk grain handling, storage and transportation facilities:

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Place	Capacity
1.	Procuring State Punjab	i. Nabha	3 Lakh Tonnes
		ii. Barnala	do
		iii. Moga	do
2.	Haryana	i. Sirsa	3 Lakh Tonnes
		ii. Kaithal	do
3.	Consuming StatesWest Bengal	i. Hooghly	1 Lakh Tonnes
4.	Tamil Nadu	i. Chennai	1 Lakh Tonnes
		ii. Coimbatore	do
5.	Karnataka	i. Bangalore	1 Lakh Tonnes
6.	Maharashtra	i. Navi Mumbai	2 Lakh Tonnes
	TOTAL:		21 Lakh Tonnes

In addition, it has been decided to create facilities for 1 lakh MTs at the port towns of Pipavav (Gujarat) through the Central Warehousing Corporation.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Difficulty faced by Flour Mills in wheat procurement

488. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether flour mills in the North are facing difficulty in procurement of wheat at affordable price and if so, whether 70 out of 120 flour mills have been closed down;

(b) whether the facility of FCI's Open Market Sales Scheme is also extended to the flour mills; and